

## **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) BOARD MEETING**

**Date:** May 3, 2006

**Time:** 10:02 A.M.

**Location:** 10 N. Senate Avenue, Room 301A  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**PRESENT:** Bob Dickerson, President; Brent Schoolcraft, Vice-President; Barry Baer, Samuel Schlosser, and Dave Thomas—Members. Also in attendance were: Maureen Weber, Deputy Commissioner, Employment Growth; Monty Combs, Deputy Commissioner Finance/Controller; Laura Merrion, IDWD Staff Attorney, and Kristy Musall, IDWD Staff Attorney.

- Called to order by Bob Dickerson
- Quorum was present
- No guests were present

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

- Ms. Weber noted that the Commissioner was out-of-town and therefore, would be unable to attend the day's meeting. Ms. Weber added that he had not made her aware of any other business to pass on that was not already being covered on the day's agenda. Mr. Dickerson asked if there was any word on the remaining Board vacancy (large employer). Ms. Weber replied that an offer had been made to someone, and the Governor was waiting on the person's reply.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- The minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting were unanimously adopted on a motion by Mr. Schlosser, with a second by Mr. Baer. All members present signed the official Minute Book.
- Ms. Weber noted that there had been a few changes made to the Board's *2005 Annual Report*, based on comments received. With those changes made, Ms. Weber indicated that the agency would take the necessary steps to distribute the report and post it to the web-site in accordance with normal practice. Mr. Baer asked what type of distribution "list" there was. Ms. Weber indicated that it goes to the Governor and the legislators as required by law, adding it is used a great deal internally, as it was one of the agency's best aggregate sources of data.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Ms. Weber noted that Calumet College had asked that their business before the Board be postponed until the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- As requested by Mr. Baer at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Ms. Weber presented several proposed usages for P&I funds—noting that there are other funding sources being looked at for some of these projects as well—which consisted of two (2) types of initiatives—

1. Initiatives Requiring Legislative Action—

- (a) Intel Integration;
- (b) Workplace Literacy;
- (c) Brain Gain; and
- (d) FIRST Endowment

2. Initiatives Not Requiring Legislative Action—

- (a) Unemployment Insurance Modernization (UIM) Project;
- (b) UI kiosks; and
- (c) Ongoing collection efforts

Ms. Weber went on to discuss the merits of these projects, as outlined in her handout, adding that the agency may come before the Board as early as the June meeting to request monies associated with one or more of the initiatives not requiring legislative action. If there were other items the Board felt deserved consideration, Ms. Weber asked that they please forward them on to her so that they might be further evaluated by department staff.

- Referring to her handout, Ms. Weber explained the Employment Growth performance scorecard—while noting that staff was in the process of updating the information to 1Q06, as these were 4Q05 statistics. While there is still work to be done, Ms. Weber noted that the agency is moving in the right direction. Ms. Weber added that changes through the UIM project will likely affect around ninety percent of the “marks” on the scorecard.
- Mr. Dickerson noted that the Resolutions of thanks for Mr. Thais, Mr. Robinson, and Ms. Anderson had been prepared as requested at the April meeting. Ms. Feltner is to take the necessary action to forward the signed Resolutions to the former Board members.
- Ms. Merrion updated the Board on the status of employer tax lawsuits. During discussion—
  - It was noted that changes were made to the report as per the Board’s request; and,
  - Updates were given as to the status of current suits/collections—including the fact that one employer had paid in full over \$50,000.00.

Mr. Baer asked what the total outstanding liability was of all accounts. Ms. Weber replied that the total owed in delinquent accounts would be around \$59 million. Mr. Baer then asked if there was a statute of limitations and if the agency ever simply wrote accounts off. Ms. Weber replied there was no statute of limitations and the agency did indeed do write-offs, which they present to the Board annually for approval—which would probably happen in the next couple of months. Mr. Baer commented on some discrepancies within the report, which Ms. Merrion explained were related to the division of dollars from the Incumbent Worker Training Fund. Mr. Combs explained that this fund was established through legislation to train Indiana’s

incumbent workforce and is a fund which receives some \$16 million annually. Mr. Baer asked for further revisions to the report, which Ms. Weber agreed to have made.

- In regards to the debit card program Mr. Combs informed the Board that the agency had selected Tier Technologies, Inc., to be the program vendor (using the VISA brand-name). For the benefit of new members, Mr. Combs also gave a brief synopsis on the program. Contract negotiations are ongoing, Mr. Combs added, noting that we (IDWD) hope to have the program up and running on or near August '06.

#### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:**

- Mr. Baer noted he would like to see three (3) items included on the June agenda—
  1. An update on the status of the summer Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) program;
  2. An update on the UIM Project; and
  3. An update on what the agency is doing in relation to the months of benefits in the trust fund.
- Mr. Dickerson introduced the new Board's labor member, Dave Thomas.

#### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Mr. Dickerson stated that he would like to see this item removed from future agendas, adding that he felt any items covered here could be covered under *Round Table Discussion*. The Board concurred.
- Mr. Combs wanted to make the Board aware of a few new initiatives—
  - The *Indiana Plan*—a program which the Board has funded statutorily in the past (\$450,000.00)—has been changed with the “*Major Moves*” legislation passed in 2006. The agency is currently working on how those funds—an increase to \$2 million from the P&I Fund—will be distributed under the new legislation.
  - The Strategic Skills Initiative (SSI)—a \$23 million program—has received proposals from all of the regions and those proposals are currently being evaluated.
  - A “Campus Outreach” program has been developed, whereby each Deputy Commissioner has been assigned a college where they will speak on what state government does and what this agency does in particular—encouraging graduates to consider employment with the state.
- Mr. Dickerson noted that he and Mr. Combs would be making surprise visits to local offices, and encouraged other members to drop in at local offices to introduce themselves as well. In addition, Mr. Dickerson noted he felt the Board might want hold a meeting at an Ivy Tech Campus some time over the summer. Ms. Weber agreed to look into such a visit.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MEETINGS:** Next meeting is June 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at IDWD's Administrative Office.